

Lab Update December 2020

The end of faxes at SCL



The Ministry of Health has extended the December deadline for cessation of faxing in the health sector. However, SCL is committed to moving ahead with our Axe the Fax schedule.

From Friday 18th December, we will no longer be able to receive faxes.
Please use the following email addresses instead:

Purpose	Email address
Lab request forms	hbay@sclabs.co.nz
Home visit requests	hbayhomevisit@sclabs.co.nz
General enquiries	hbay@sclabs.co.nz
Stores order forms	hbay@sclabs.co.nz

Lab results

Outbound faxing of results occurs via our lab IT system and is unaffected by the December 18th cut-off.

Health Hawkes Bay is in the process of engaging with General Practice and gathering suitable email addresses as an alternative to faxing. As we receive email addresses SCL will switch from fax to email for sending results that require it.

We will be contacting private specialists and midwives separately to gather email addresses.

Our intention is to substitute any necessary faxing of results with email. But for routine results such as INR, we encourage you to consider alternative workflows that do not rely on the lab faxing or emailing results. As always, we will notify you of critical results by phone.

Stores ordering

Our stores order form is available here in a writable PDF format:

https://fl-healthscope-media.s3.amazonaws.com/lab-sites/uploads/2020/12/HB_Medical_Supplies_Order_Form.pdf

Once completed this can be saved to your computer as a PDF file and emailed to hbay@sclabs.co.nz

Alternatively, you can print out a blank form to complete by hand then scan and email to us.

We are developing our own local SCL Hawkes Bay website, which will include online stores ordering. This will be available early next year.

Test add requests

Historically we have asked for a faxed form for test add-ons to existing specimens. We acknowledge the feedback that this has caused frustration for some.

From now on we will accept test adds by phone— calls will be put through to appropriate technical staff, who will confirm whether the test add can be done on the existing specimen. For those using eOrders a simple eOrder test-add process is available. Alternatively, you can email us at hbay@sclabs.co.nz

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HbA1c and CBC

When taking samples for requests that include both HbA1c (Glycated Haemoglobin) and CBC (complete blood count) please collect TWO lavender top tubes whenever possible.

The workflows in the lab are very different for each, and sharing of a single tube for both tests creates operational difficulties.

eOrders



We are able to offer eOrders (electronic orders) to some Hawkes Bay surgeries but unfortunately not all.

Essentially, if SCL tests your Haematology and Biochemistry samples, we can set you up for eOrders. If for your surgery Haematology and Biochemistry samples are tested at the Hastings Hospital lab, we are unable to set up eOrders.

We have a number of local practices using eOrders already, and are keen to expand this in coming months. More information is available here: <https://eorder.co.nz/>. If you are particularly keen to get started please contact the Hawkes Bay Manager Andrew Milne andrew.milne@sclabs.co.nz or phone 027 439 3006.

Pre-departure Covid-19 testing - China

The Chinese Embassy has updated its requirement for pre-departure travel testing. From 10 December 2020, passengers must complete one COVID PCR test (swab) and one COVID IgM antibody test (blood) within 48 hours of boarding their flight, providing negative results for both. Please refer to the Chinese embassy website for further information (<http://www.chinaembassy.org.nz/eng/>).

These tight timeframes are very difficult to achieve and we are unable to offer this testing locally. We recommend that clients travel to Auckland, Wellington, or Christchurch to have their tests pre-departure. Wellington SCL is offering a full collection and testing service with results available in under 48 hours, details are here: <https://travelcentre.mytests.co.nz/>

Testing (but not nasopharyngeal swab collection) is also available at Labtests in Auckland: <https://www.labtests.co.nz/commercial-services/pre-departure-covid-19-test/> and in Christchurch at Canterbury SCL <https://www.canterburyscl.co.nz/>

Home visit service

*Our home visit service is under considerable pressure at present. **We ask for your help ensuring that home visit requests are reserved only for those who truly need one.** i.e. for patients whose circumstances make it impossible to come to a collection centre for their blood test. It is frustrating when our staff arrive to find a home visit patient is not home.*

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Testing changes

Test	Change
17-Hydroxyprogesterone and Androstenedione	Sample type is now a RED TOP tube . Gel tubes (yellow or green top) are unsuitable
Free PSA	Canterbury Health Laboratories have ceased offering this test
Urinary antigen testing- <i>Legionella pneumophila</i> serogroup 1 and <i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i>	Canterbury Health Laboratories have ceased offering these tests
Myoglobin – urine and plasma	Canterbury Health Laboratories have advised that they will cease offering these tests from 31/12/20
HIV and HBV Viral Loads	<p>Canterbury Health Laboratories have advised of changes to test platforms for these tests in November 2020:</p> <p>Canterbury Health Laboratories wishes to advise that we continue our phased introduction of our new Molecular Platform, the Alinity M, with the transition of viral load testing of blood borne viruses.</p> <p>Introduction of this new technology will see a significant reduction in turn-around-time, shortening to 24 hours when the specimen is received during routine operating hours Monday- Friday, with a maximum of 72 hours when the specimen is received on the weekend.</p> <p>The second of the blood borne viral loads to be transferred to the Alinity M will be Hepatitis B virus (HBV), from Monday 2 November. The lower end limit of detection changes for HBV Viral Load from 15 to 10 IU/mL, however the upper limit of detection will remain at 1 billion IU/mL.</p> <p>We anticipate that HIV Viral Load will transition within the next fortnight. At this time there will also be a change to the lower end limit of detection for this assay, reducing from 40 to 20 copies/ml for HIV Viral Load. The upper limit of detection will remain unchanged at 10,000,000 copies/ml.</p> <p>Currently there is no change to specimen requirements until all viral loads are transferred. Any changes to specimen type will be clearly communicated at this time.</p> <p>If you wish to discuss these changes, please contact the on-call microbiologist through the hospital operator.</p>  <p>DR Anja Werno MD PhD FRCPA Acting Clinical Director Microbiology & Virology Canterbury Health Laboratories</p>
Urine dipstick test	<p>Urine dipstick is a point of care test best performed in the surgery at the time of collection.</p> <p>SCL has not routinely offered urine dipstick testing for some years, however we continue to receive requests. We no longer have the ability to perform these locally, leading to an overnight delay to send them away.</p> <p>In the SCL Hawkes Bay lab we offer urine microscopy / culture and Microalbumin / ACR / Total Protein locally.</p>